

Kittery's Road to Zero Waste Initiative

Updated Jan. 25, 2013

Financial Overview

The overall goal of the Zero Waste approach is to operate as an enterprise fund thus reducing the financial impact on the taxpayers. Through partnerships, monitoring progress, and engaging the public, we need to work together to realize the aggressive goal of this initiative.

Unlimited trash disposal must be substituted with a trash metering program teamed up with on-going education and enforcement of our ordinances. The program for Pay as You Throw has been updated to pay back residents for the average bags they purchase, while the town still saves operating cost for less tipping and transportation fees...hopefully seen as a win-win solution. A presentation for "More in Return" is anticipated for spring 2013. In addition, the Department is exploring opportunities to assist low-income residents in reducing their costs of service.

Our operating budgets have remained flat for the past four year through reorganization, efficiencies and other creative initiatives. In FY13, the budget was upgraded slightly to include a full-time fourth person within the Resource Recovery team. Unfortunately, the change came at the cost of losing an employee in Highway. Our goal would be to create additional "green" jobs, not at a cost to the other operations in town. This mindset must continue to be open and free flowing to hold or reduce the operating costs of our facility.

In FY14, DPW wants to replace the current baler at the Resource Recovery Facility. The current baler is past its useful life expectancy and function. We are continuously increasing not only the volume of recyclable materials but also the diversity. A new baler will greatly increase our efficiency. Currently we have proposed an approximate capital request of \$300,000 for the replacement.

The current building utilized for the receiving of MSW and recyclables from the general public is in need of replacement. DPW has proposed a FY14 capital request for \$50,000 to create a design and concept for the new building. The overall estimate for the new building is approximately 2 million.